



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contact: Brad Sherwood**  
**707.521.6204**

### **Agency Investigates Inflatable Dam Malfunction**

#### ***Water Retail Providers Urged to Take Necessary Water Conservation Measures***

Santa Rosa, CA – The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) is contacting its water retail providers and encouraging them to continue implementation of water conservation measures and be prepared to operate local water supply sources as it investigates damage to its inflatable dam used to divert water into its water transmission system.

“The Agency is taking a proactive role in alerting its water retail providers about a leak in the inflatable dam,” said Pam Jeane, Agency deputy chief engineer of operations. “While current water demand is being met, the Agency is recommending its retail providers continue to implement their existing water conservation measures and be prepared to use local sources of water until the inflatable dam is repaired.”

The leak in the inflatable dam is causing fluctuation in the dam’s height, resulting in unstable up-stream and down-stream river flows. Agency staff is investigating the cause of the leak. The inflatable dam is filled with a mixture of pressurized water and air. Agency staff is continuously monitoring the pressure of the inflatable dam and taking action to stabilize stream flows by maintaining the inflatable dam at a height of four-feet; half of its normal inflated height. Despite the fluctuations, the Agency is currently meeting required in-stream flows as regulated by the State Water Resources Board.

The Agency is meeting current water demand; however weather forecasts indicate warmer temperatures later this week, which could result in increased water demands. The inflatable dam increases capacity of Agency’s wells. Overall, the inflatable dam significantly increases the Agency’s ability to pump water into its water transmission system.

The manufacturer of the inflatable dam, Bridgestone Corporation, is scheduled to review and provide an analysis of repair work tomorrow. The Agency is prepared to hire a contractor to immediately repair the leak as soon as a diagnosis is made by the manufacturers.

“The Agency is working around the clock to investigate the cause of the leak,” said Jeane. “We are prepared to manage situations such as this and continue providing water to our contractors.”

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*Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org).*